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THE PILGRIM TERCENTENARY EXHIBITION IN THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

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IN THE Main Exhibition Room (113), for a period of three months, ending about March 1, 1921, there is on free public view an extensive assemblage of books, pictures, personalia, maps, views, commemoration and celebration orations, medals, cards, programmes, etc., relating to the Mayflower Pilgrims in their homes and haunts, in England, Holland, and America, down through the entire period during which Plymouth Colony existed as a separate body politic.

This exhibition sharply differentiates the Pilgrims from the more extensive and better known Puritan Commonwealth of Massachusetts Bay, which absorbed the Plymouth entity under William and Mary. It endeavors to present, within its historical limitations and in systematic form, a birdseye view of the principal books and other evidences relating to the founders of the Plymouth Colony in New England, as more particularly hereafter described. The exhibition fills 28 large showcases and 8 large standards, the objects being accompanied, when necessary, by succinct yet appropriate descriptive labels.

Two showcases call attention to "Some background factors in Pilgrim history." Here are shown a manuscript of Wycliffe's New Testament, written about A. D. 1380, the earliest in America and believed to be the finest in existence of so early a date; the Coverdale Bible, the first complete printed English Bible, 1535; and the first edition of the Genevan or so-called Breeches Bible, 1560, a version which the Pilgrims commonly used. In this group one sees the works of Dr. John Whitgift, arch antagonist of the Puritan reformation, out of which the Pilgrims sprang, and the parliamentary journals under Queen Elizabeth's reign, which show the measures employed to hold in check the movement. Modern studies about the early English dissenters, leaders of different factions such as Robert Browne founder of the Brownists, John Smyth the Baptist; Henry Barrow the Separatist, and John Penry the Pilgrim Martyr, follow in succession. A large part of one showcase contains an array of the publications connected with the Martin Marprelate Controversy, in 1588–1590, which as a campaign of pamphleteering "clearly belongs to the great Puritan movement" in Elizabeth's reign and "was of a nature to have weight chiefly among the more ignorant classes." At least it had the masses of England by the ears. The title-pages are often quaint and the spurious places of printing are sometimes funny.

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The "background factors" are followed by two cases of "General Works in Pilgrim History"; first place is given to the monumental bibliographical work of Dr. Henry Martyn Dexter, on "Congregationalism as seen in its Literature" (1880), followed by the works that treat of the Pilgrims in their three homes, arranged in chronological order from 1839 to the present year. Another showcase is devoted to "The Pilgrims in England," in which there is a small piece of wood from the railings in the old Town Hall court room of Boston, Lincolnshire, before which refugee Separatists, including Brewster and Bradford, were tried in 1609.

The two cases devoted to "The Pilgrims in Holland" are well worth careful study by students, because they show newly discovered or otherwise little known materials. A case is devoted to the Leyden congregation and John Robinson, their pastor. There are reproductions of manuscripts showing Robinson's genuine handwriting, only recently determined, and also what was formerly believed to be his signature but is now known to be otherwise. A part of his wife's will with her signature is shown, and also a document by two Dutch theologians, who make a declaration about Robinson's intentions for the removal of a goodly number of his flock from Leyden and his reasons for doing so. Robinson's own works are shown. The second Holland case is devoted entirely to Elder William Brewster and his Leyden printing press. Among the Pilgrim company which first fled from England to Amsterdam, then removed to Leyden, were three men who were printers, namely Elder William Brewster, Edward Winslow, and John Reynolds. Brewster's Leyden printery was in existence only 33 months, from October, 1616, to June, 1619, during which period some 19 books or tracts were issued from it and widely disseminated. The English monarch, James I, was wroth at some of these products and, through Sir Dudley Carleton, his ambassador to the States-General, sought the arrest of Brewster. However, through an error, Thomas Brewer, the financial backer of the press, was put under arrest, whilst Brewster escaped and his printing materials were removed from Choir Alley to a garret in Brewer's house, in Belfry Lane, which was near the Leyden residence of the Rev. John Robinson. Only four of the books Brewster issued, three in Latin and one in Dutch, bore his name as the printer, and these came from his shop in 1617. Later it was the part of wisdom in him not to reveal himself. Curiously enough, a copy of the only Dutch book he printed was once sold in New York at auction, then disappeared, and now apparently no copy is known even to the specialists. A rather unusual feature of the Brewster case is an inventory of his own private library, analyzed by such able scholars as Dr. Justin Winsor and Dr. Henry M. Dexter. The latter ascertained by laborious research that 75 per cent of the books in the library were printed before 1621, and that Brewster owned in his New England home at least as many as eleven books, products of his own Leyden shop.

The books which tell of the "Principles and Purposes of the Pilgrims" and describe their "Manners and Customs" fill two showcases. Here and in other parts of the exhibition may be seen pictures of their household furnishings, such as chairs, cradles, chests, pots, pewter dishes, and personal belongings as clocks, swords, spinning-wheels, and other relics.

The celebration of Forefathers' Day was first instituted in 1769 by a newly-organized "Old Colony Club." A celebration has since been held every year at Plymouth, Mass., with but few exceptions, under various auspices,

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mainly, however, the Town, one of its churches, or by the Pilgrim Society organized in 1820, and celebrations have become general in many other places. The most notable addresses delivered on these occasions are exhibited. The celebrations of the tercentenary recently concluded in Holland and England, and those more recently held in the United States, are well represented in the show.

The large standards are devoted to pictures, maps, and other media for visualizing the historical associations of the Pilgrims in their three homes and their other temporary stepping stones to the New World. Special attention is called to "The Pilgrims in Art," a rather comprehensive lot, including the fine original oil painting of "Pilgrims going to Church," by George Henry Boughton. A large painting of "The Mayflower," painted in oils in 1920, has been lent by the marine artist, James Gale Tyler.

The largest representation is, naturally, given to "The Pilgrims in New England," there being eleven showcases devoted to the Pilgrim colony. Before the Pilgrims came over and, in fact, before their leaders in Holland had planned a removal, Captain John Smith had fixed upon the naming of New England in his tract, "A Description of New England" (London, 1616) accompanied by the first map of New England. The Library devotes a case to those works of Smith that relate to the landfall of the Mayflower Pilgrims, and descriptive labels tell about them. Smith's writings also had a profound influence upon American exploration and settlement; they really constitute a group of factors in Pilgrim history.

Two showcases of popular interest are related to the ship "Mayflower." All pictures of the ship are merely artists' idealizations, since no original picture or model is known. There were at least forty vessels of the name which sailed from England between the years 1550 and 1770. Moreover, besides the "Mayflower" of the Pilgrims "at least three and probably more voyages were made by other 'Mayflowers' to America during the first half of the seventeenth century." An upright case shows a small ship's model, made from a beam of old Scrooby Manor House, the English home of Elder William Brewster. This model was lent by Pilgrim Church of New York City.

The rarest books in Plymouth Colony history are shown together in a case. "A briefe Relation of the Discovery and Plantation of New England," the "Sermon preached at Plimmoth," on December 9, 1621, by Robert Cushman, and the so-called Mourt's "Relation or Journall," all three were printed in London in 1622. Then there is the interesting tract of Edward Winslow, later the third governor of the colony, namely, his "Good Newes from New-England" (1624), which continues the story of events from November, 1621, to September 10, 1623. Other outstanding books in this section are John Cotton's "The Planters Plea" (1630); William Wood's "New Englands Prospect" (1635); Thomas Morton's antagonistic book on "New English Canaan" (1637); Governor Winslow's "Hypocrisie Unmasked" (1646), and its reissue as "Danger of Tolerating Levellers in a Civill State" (1649); also his "New Englands Salamander discovered" (1647).

Pilgrim singing or psalmody deserves a word. When the Pilgrims came over, they brought with them Henry Ainsworth's metrical version of the psalms and the edition of 1618, said to be the edition they used, is exhibited, side by side with the "Bay Psalm Book," so called because it originated in Massachusetts-Bay Colony, the first book printed in English America, and one of only ten copies known. The "Bay Psalm Book" was soon revised and was printed

first in the new form at Cambridge, Mass., in 1651. The only known copy is exhibited. This version remained in use in New England down to about the end of the colonial era. Its connection with the Pilgrims and Plymouth is its adoption by the latter when the two colonies were merged into one body politic at the end of the seventeenth century.

Before 1669, when Nathaniel Morton's "New-Englands Memoriall," was published, down to 1767, when the second volume of Gov. Thomas Hutchinson's "History of the Province of Massachusetts-Bay" appeared from the press, there had been used for historical works by others, a most unusual and important unpublished history. This was Gov. William Bradford's "History of Plimouth Plantation." Morton who had used it freely was Bradford's nephew. The Rev. Dr. Thomas Prince who quoted from it in 1736, had it in his own library, from which it disappeared about the beginning of the American Revolution and its whereabouts was unknown for three quarters of a century, until discovered in the Bishop of London's Library at Fulham, England. It was, after previous unsuccessful trials, finally restored to Massachusetts in May, 1897, and is the most treasured possession of its kind in the State House. The books of the authors who had used the Bradford manuscript before its disappearance are represented in the Bradford group. A facsimile of the manuscript "History" is there, and books with texts of Bradford's other known writings, namely, his "Dialogue on Church Government" and his fragmentary letter book. The chief printed editions of his "History," from the first (1856) to the last (1912), both of these under the patronage of the Massachusetts Historical Society, are shown. Facsimiles of Bradford's baptismal record at Austerfield, England, of his intention of marriage at Amsterdam and the record of its taking place there, and a recently-discovered power of attorney dated at Leyden, July 24, 1620, are not without passing interest.

The Plymouth Colony records have been printed under competent editors. The court orders, laws, and judicial acts occupy the larger space; but there are volumes devoted to the lands, Indians, commissioners of the United Colonies, and miscellanea. All are shown, as are also the printed town records, wills, and epitaphs.

A case is devoted to Capt. Myles Standish. The Standish portrait shown is not authentic, although often given as his picture in books. The only undisputed portrait of a Mayflower Pilgrim is the painting made in 1651, in England, of Governor Edward Winslow. In the Standish group are also shown forgeries of letters purporting to have been written by him. John Alden, Francis Cooke, Isaac Allerton, Capt. Richard More, Peregrine White, and other Pilgrims have representation in another showcase. The last cases devoted to their history in New England present in chronological order the compiled histories of Cape Cod, the county and town of Plymouth, and the guide books pictured for the tourist.

Finally, two cases show "The Pilgrims in Literature." Here are the Pilgrim novels of Jane Austin, Hezekiah Butterworth, Mrs. Cheney, Frank M. Gregg, Miss Dix, Motley, and others; another growing group is the Pilgrim in drama or pageantry; and the last is the chief literary group, namely the Pilgrim in poetry, which includes Mrs. Hemans, Holmes, Longfellow, Lowell, Whittier, and other poets of lesser distinction.

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